

## AGRICULTURAL.

widower with four boys, whom the eldest is sixteen years old, youngest six, there has devolved on him not only the task of maintaining his family, but of discharging all those domestic duties which are a mother's peculiar province. And thus duties he has discharged so well that his four boys are patterns of good conduct, and the whole neighborhood is wont to speak of Cecchetti's children as the models of what children ought to be. The two eldest were already employed in the tobacco manufactory, where they too earned, on an average, a lire a day each.

Cecchetti lived on the first floor of a house in the Via Taddei, close to the tobacco manufactory. In another small apartment on the same floor was lodged a young man, the apprentice of a vintner in Borgo La Noce. This youth was struck by the good conduct of the young Cecchetti, and by the excellent and kind bearing of the father, and in the course of conversation and familiar intercourse at length learned that the father was in the habit of reading with his children and his friends the Bible. And in case that with his master he repented this circumstance to him, expressing his belief that the Bible could not be such a very bad book, after all, when it produced such happy fruits.

A few days afterward, the vintner went to confession at San Lorenzo, and there mentioned to the confessor that his apprentice had been talking to him about Diodati's Bible, which he thought not so bad as had been represented. The priest immediately interrupted the confessor, and refused him absolution.

Next day he met Priest Buratti, the first curate of San Lorenzo; and one of the fiercest and most relentless persecutors of the Tuscan protestants. "Why, what is the matter with you?" said Curate Buratti, "you seem so dull!" "Ah, curate, no wonder, yesterday I was refused absolution." "Refused absolution?" replied the curate, "impossible; refuse absolution to so good a Catholic as you. There must be some mistake. Come to my house and confess to me, and I hope it will prove nothing."

The vintner made his confession to Curate Buratti, and received absolution, all song and exhortation; and Curate Buratti lost no time in denouncing Domenico Cecchetti to the Tuscan police as guilty of the crime of Protestantism, and requiring them to watch over his proceedings, and, if possible, to seize him in the act.

Accordingly, some three months ago, four gendarmes suddenly entered Cecchetti's house, about nine o'clock in the evening—they expected to have found him in company with other inquirers, reading the Scriptures; they found only another fellow-lodger named Giochi, who had come to repay Cecchetti the sum of five pence, which he had borrowed on the previous day. But they seized and carried off in triumph one copy of Diodati's Bible, and two copies of the New Testament.

Cecchetti heard nothing more of the matter for nearly ten weeks. On the morning of Wednesday, the 14th instant, he received an order to appear before the delegate of Santa Maria Novella, in the afternoon of the same day. Then and there he was examined by the Chancellor of the Delegation, and required to declare why three copies of Diodati's Bible and Testament were found in his possession. "Indeed, Signor Delegato," was the answer, "I only wish there had been five, instead of three, for there are five of us, my four boys and myself, and we require a Bible apiece."

The Chancellerie successively interrogated him as to his opinion regarding mass, confession, the authority of the Pope, on all points which he stated his opinion without reserve. He replied that Jesus Christ had been offered up once as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind; that no future sacrifice was or could be wanted. He said, "As to confession, when I have sinned, it is my duty to confess my sin, first to Almighty God and then to my pastor; then to my brother—to you, Signor Chancellerie, for example, if I have offended you. As to the Pope being the head of the Church, I know," he said, "no head save that of Jesus Christ. The Pope is a constituted authority, like you, Signor Chancellerie."

But, respecting certain matters, he neither heard nor learned anything from Domenico Cecchetti, though again he returned to the charge. Neither wheedling nor bullying could induce him to reveal the name of one of the Christian brethren with whom he had read and discussed on the scriptures. His answer invariably was: "On all points regarding myself I will answer you without the slightest reserve; but questions likely to commit my friends, I cannot and will not reply to." The Chancellerie, finding the attempt hopeless, then read over the minutes of the examination. Cecchetti himself pursued it, and signed his name; and so, for the time, the affair terminated with the dismissal of the accused.

The paper thus obtained was submitted to the Council of Perfecture, which on the avowal it contained, sentenced Domenico Cecchetti to a year's imprisonment in the pententiary of Imbrugiano. Imbrugiano was formerly a villa of the Grand Dukes of Tuscany, in which they solaced themselves after the cares of state with rural pleasures, and is now a dungeon for the Protestant subjects of Leopold II., and in that character, doubtless, affords him as much pleasure as he is capable of receiving.

On the morning of Sunday, the 25th, the gen-darmes were charged with the execution of the sentence. They entered the house of Domenico Cecchetti at half-past four, and told him they had been sent to convey him to the Baglio, whence he was not likely soon to return. Hastily kissing his four boys, he bade them farewell, leaving them in the care of Him "with whom is strength and wisdom, and whom are both the deceived and the deceiver." On the following morning, he was met at a quarter to seven, guarded by two gen-darmes, heavily ironed, pale and calm, on his way to the terminus of the Ligonio railway, by which he was to go to Monte Lupo.

On the preceding facts, I shall offer but one word of comment. Never was there a cause which more imperatively required, which more completely justified, the sympathy of European Protestants, and the interposition of all Protestant Governments. It is well that our attention should be turned to the Oriental Christians who have groaned under the whip and scourge of Moslem domination; but let us, on that account, forget the countrymen of the Guicciardini, Medici, or overlook the harrowing fact that all Italy is rife with wholesale persecution, unconnected with the great struggle with which we are engaged.

"My respect for the independence of state are so characteristic of the system now prevalent throughout Italy, and so honorable to the man against whom it was directed, that I make no apology for communicating them with as much fulness of detail as your columns will allow. Domenico Cecchetti is a workman employed in the tobacco manufactory of M. M. Emanuel, Fenzi & Co., the well known bankers, who have for years farmed this monopoly. He was one of the best workmen in the establishment, earning five pence a day, and enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his employers in the highest possible degree."

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## PUBLIC SALE.

THE undersigned Administrator of the Estate of Dean Rankin Deceased, will offer at Public Sale on the premises on

SATURDAY, the 12th of May,

A. D. 1855, between the hours of 10 o'clock A. M. and 1 o'clock P. M., in the town of ALEXANDER, Hocking County, Ohio, to the highest bidder, to the use and property of said Deceased, to pay the debts of said Estate.

TERMS known on day of sale.

F. M. SNIVELY, Administrator of Dean Rankin, Deceased.

March 29, 1855.—fr.

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